REMARKS

Claim 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to locate the particulate material with respect to the fiber and the environment.

Claims 1-2 and 5-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pittman, or under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Pittman.

Pittman discloses cellulose fibers held together by polyolefin binder fibers. An enhancement agent – titanium dioxide, talc, silica, alum, calcium carbonate, calcium oxide, magnesium and other oxides – is dispersed within the polymer. See the paragraph beginning on line 15 of column 4. "The particle size, in order to achieve good dispersion within the polymer and good spinnability is in the range of 0.04 to about 5 microns, and preferably in the range of 0.05 to 2 microns. [emphasis added]" Material within the polymer is not attached in a manner that allows it to reduce the hydrogen sulfide present in the environment surrounding the pulp fiber.

The Pittman polyolefin binder fibers are described as follows:

> The binder fibers of the present invention can either be in the form of low melt fiber, bicomponent fiber or both. The low melt portion of the bicomponent fiber would comprise the same material as the low melt fiber. The low melt fiber and the low melt portion of the bicomponent fiber are made from polyolefin and are referred to as "base polyolefin". Base polyolefin does not include any polyolefin in the high melt component of bicomponent fiber. The preferred binder fiber of the present invention is the bicomponent fiber.
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> When a bicomponent fiber is employed as the binder fiber, the high melt portion may be selected from the claiss of polyolefins, such as polyethylene, polypropylene and polybutylene; polyesters such as polyethylene terephathalate (PET), polybutylene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate, and the like; polyamides such as nylon 6, nylon 66; polyacrylates such as polymethacrylate, polymethylmethacrylate, and the like; as well as mixtures and copolymers thereof. Although the bicomponent fiber can the the side-by-side type or the sheath-core type, the sheath-core type is preferred, particularily where the low melt component is the sheath.

It is submitted that the polyamides noted by Pittman, polyamides such as nylon 6 and nylon 66, which form the high temperature portion of a bicomponent fiber are not water soluble.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over Pittman in view of Hochwalt. Hochwalt is cited for the disclosure of zeolites. The zeolites of Hochwalt et al dispersed within the binder fibers of Pittman would not be attached in a manner that allows the zeolite to reduce the hydrogen sulfide present in the environment surrounding the pulp fiber.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn and the case passed to issue.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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